



10

How to submit a book for *State of the Arts*

To submit a book by a Montana author for inclusion in *State of the Arts*' "About Books" section:

Please send a copy of the book to *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824; or submit the following information electronically to writeus@livelytimes.com or mac@mt.gov:

- Title, author, publisher, publisher's address and month/year published;
- Price and whether it's hard- or softcover;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf, jpg or tiff file;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

If you would like us to return the book, include a note with it saying so. (We will pay for shipping.)

E-books: We'll also mention books that are only electronically published: send title, author, a cover image, website for downloads, and a brief paragraph about the book.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted in *Lively Times*.

ABOUT BOOKS

The Montana Medicine Show's Genuine Montana History

By B. Derek Strahn
Published 2014 by Riverbend Publishing, Helena, MT
\$15.95 softcover

In 2008, Bozeman historian and teacher Derek Strahn began writing and recording thumbnail sketches of personalities and events for a weekly radio show on Montana State University's KGLT FM station. The Montana Medicine Show was the brainchild of station program director Jim Kehoe, who concocted the idea of creating fact-based historical markers that could be read in less than two minutes.

Strahn's book shares his collection of fascinating vignettes about Montana's colorful history, beginning with characters from the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and finishing in 2013 with statistics for the cross-state football rivalry between the UM Grizzlies and MSU Bobcats.

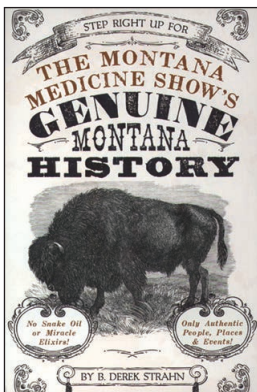
In between, there are explorers, industrialists, outlaws, Native Americans, natural disasters, movie stars, politicians, and more. One-page sketches explain the origins of many geographical locations, towns, buildings, and events – most inspired by a notable character (good or otherwise) in Montana's history.

Charlie Russell, Gary Cooper, Evel Knievel, and MSU Bobcat basketball star "Brick" Breeden are briefly profiled. Information on mining disasters and strikes, the great flood of 1964, and "the worst American Train Wreck" in 50 years can be found here, each in a one-page synopsis.

Several women are profiled too, including Belle Winestone, the Helena Independent's first female reporter and an activist for women's right to vote. She served as Senator Jeannette Rankin's administrative assistant, lived to 94, and was named one of the 100 most influential Montanans of the 20th century.

The book is a pleasant and engaging way to learn about Montana's colorful history, two minutes at a time.

Strahn is an avid historian, high school teacher, consultant for historic preservation projects, and a folk/blues musician. To hear samples of his broadcasts, visit www.montanamedicineshow.com.



The Destiny of an Orphan Boy

By Charles Clemens Baraby
Published by the author in 2014
\$24 softcover

People often remark how my father is a John Wayne-like character. It is true enough that he possesses a bigger-than-life personality with more stories of tomfoolery, death-defying consequences, and rescues of others than anyone I can name. The pages containing all the stories about him would reach to the ceiling.

Of course in my father's case, the actions were, and still are, real. He's been involved in hundreds of screen-worthy shenanigans and honorable intentions, and has lived a life long enough to tell them.

This volume is not one of polished prose, but rather filled with truthful tales of a life lived in Montana, ringing through the gritty voice of an experienced oral storyteller.

In his book, Charles Clemens Baraby offers his personal story of growing up separated from family in the state orphanage at Twin Bridges in the early 1930s – the same institution where his mother was placed after the death of her mother. He was eventually taken in by a ranching family east of Helena.

His story is an amalgamation of loss and pain, opportunities taken, challenges to his strength and courage, and oftentimes finding his own way through Montana's rough and tumble landscape.

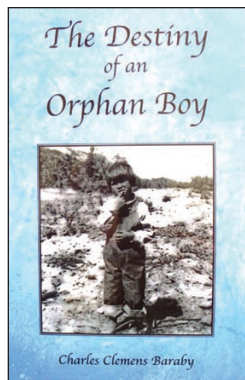
He managed to survive and thrive, raising four daughters and recently celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary. He held a respected position in the Helena community and worked for wildlife conservation causes.

His story sets to paper some of the struggles, connections and disconnects of a family filled with strife and gumption, and one that inherited both tenacity and the ability to devise solutions.

At 87, an age when, as the adage goes, "I don't buy ripe bananas ...," my father chose to self-publish a volume of his stories. Since the book is in its second printing, I'd say he made another wise decision.

His book is available through the Montana Historical Society, Montana Book Company, or by contacting the author at 406-442-9304.

– Kim Baraby Hurtle



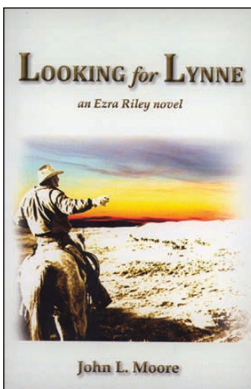
Looking for Lynne, An Ezra Riley Novel

By John L. Moore
Published 2014 by CreateSpace, North Charleston, SC
\$14.95 softcover

Although the characters in the fourth installment of John Moore's Ezra Riley series are wearing the patina of age, they still ride, rope and navigate the often-hostile political and cultural landscape of the new West.

Like the story's author, Riley is a Miles City rancher and writer, more at ease with horses than humans. But two "horse wrecks" involving an Oswald gelding have left him with broken ribs and nerve damage. More collisions are in store.

A young greenhorn who works for the Natural Resources and Conservation Service is taking an inventory of the ranch for sage-grouse habitat; a freelance reporter who covered wars in the Middle East is prowling around in pursuit of a story about the changing role of horses in the West; an antagonistic environ-



mentalist moves into his bunkhouse; and a billionaire is offering to buy Ezra's ranch and turn it over to his drug-addled grandson.

Add a freak storm and an ominous pair of drifters to this volatile mix, and Riley's peaceful world is sundered. Fortunately, his friend Barney, a cowboy cartoonist, lends a frequent dose of levity. Especially when he's scooped up by National Public Radio – "the commie radio network" – to spout cowboy poetry.

And threaded throughout are stories of an almost mythical cowboy, Lynne. "He was an artist," Barney tells the reporter, who rode "like a poet. A little cadence. A zing here, a ding there. He and the horse in rhyme." The land has a voice too: "You love it, you hate it, but in the end its real value is in passing it on."

A satisfying read in itself, *Looking for Lynne* also makes us wonder what happened in the first three novels: *The Breaking of Ezra Riley*, published in 1990, followed by *Leaving the Land* and *The Limits of Mercy*.

"Moore's prose is rich with geographic and character detail, and he has a strong ear for dialogue," writes *Kirkus Reviews*. And author Shann Ray advises, "If you want the real blood and bone of the West, read John L. Moore."

– Kristi Niemeyer

Confederates in Montana

Territory, In the Shadow of Price's Army

By Ken Robison
Published November 2014 by The History Press, Charleston, SC
\$19.99 softcover

During and shortly after the Civil War, thousands of Border State men and their families sought to escape the war and its consequences by relocating to the American West, that great American destination for ambitious fortune seekers, as well that those fleeing a variety of personal, economic and social pressures.

Rich mining prospects were incentive enough, but factors like deserter status, draft evasion, threats against life and property, and outright banishment led many southern sympathizers to places like Montana Territory ... A Montana paper referred to this influx as the "left wing of Price's army."

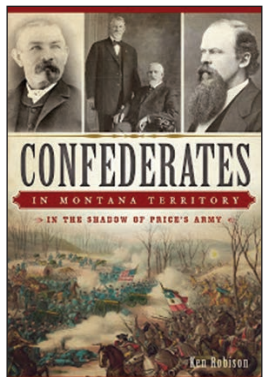
Ken Robison's *Confederates in Montana Territory: In the Shadow of Price's Army* ... does touch upon key overlying themes. The opening section outlines population, political, and economic trends in the territory, with 1862 and 1863 gold strikes attracting a flood of opportunists and an uneasy alliance between Irish immigrants and Southern Democrats facilitating that party's strong showing in the territorial legislature. The book's final section briefly examines Confederate monument placement and other aspects of Lost Cause memorialization in Montana during the decades following the war.

Background elements aside, individual stories are the real focus of *Confederates in Montana Territory*. More than a dozen chapter length biographies trace the Civil War and territorial activities of a selected group of men who left war and Reconstruction behind to become Montana miners, businessmen, militia leaders, and even criminals.

In connecting modern Montana residents with their Civil War history through lively personal stories, the book achieves what it sets out to do. Hopefully, it will also inspire others to study the Civil War era's influence on the social, political and economic development of the Mountain West region.

The profusely illustrated book is a follow-up to last year's release by the Great Falls author and historian, *Montana Territory and the Civil War: A Frontier Forged on the Battlefield*.

– Andrew Wagenhoffer, excerpted with permission from *Civil War Books and Authors*, cwba.blogspot.com



The Fallow Season of Hugo Hunter

By Craig Lancaster
Published Nov. 1, 2014, by Lake Union Publishing, Seattle, WA
Softcover \$14.95

In his fifth book, Billings author Craig Lancaster focuses on two men whose lives become profoundly linked through the sport of boxing. Hugo Hunter is an Olympic silver medalist, whose success in the ring brought him international attention at 17. Sports writer and narrator Mark Westerly has followed Hugo's career for nearly 20 years.

The story, set in Billings, opens with Hugo at 37. He's broke and trying desperately to stay in the ring long enough to pay rent. Faced with a critical medical exam, he turns to Westerly.

"Some days I felt like an older brother," reflects the reporter. "Others, like this one, when Hugo's vulnerabilities seemed to overwhelm him, my role was almost that of a father."

Westerly has his own share of emotional baggage, including a failed marriage and ambivalence toward his work. When Hugo's career was on the upswing, Westerly covered his bouts for the newspaper and enjoyed the benefits – travel, an expense account, and a brief spot on ESPN. Those days are long gone.

In spite of Hugo's downward spiral, Westerly describes him as "the kind of guy you'll do something for again and again, because you genuinely love him, even when you know you'll end up being disappointed eventually." Westerly never gives up on Hugo, and in the course of helping to repair his friend, finds redemption and renewal in his own life.

Believable characters and an engaging and authentic plot make this work a pleasurable read. "This story ties it all together, from the boxer and the writer's eyes ... It's about the fraternity of the lost, and the tales they tell each other on their way back," writes Tim Kawakami, sports columnist for the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Lancaster's has also published *600 Hours of Edward*, *Edward Adrift*, *The Summer Son*, and the short story collection *Quantum Physics and the Art of Departure*. He resides in Billings, where he does freelance editing and design work in addition to his fiction writing.

– Judy Shafter

